In the claims:

Please cancel claims 25-29 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 4-6, 21, 22, 24, and 30 as follows:

1. (Previously amended) A recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxin agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

2. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises more than one toxic agent.

3. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the toxic agent is a toxic gene product.

4. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein said toxic gene product ~~of claim 3, which~~ is an Addiction System toxin.

5. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein said toxic gene product ~~of claim 3, which~~ is a chromosomally encoded bacterial toxin.

6. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein said toxic gene product ~~of claim 3,~~ is selected from the group consisting of *ccdB, kid, ~~perK,~~ parE, doc, higB, chpAK, chpBK, kicB, ~~hoc,~~ srnB', flmA, pndA, ~~pmdA,~~ relF, gef, kilA, kilB, kilC, kilE, traL, traE, sigB, hok, pemK, lysostaphin, and kikA.*

7. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the toxic agent is an antisense RNA.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid of claim 7 wherein the antisense RNA is a *DicF1*-like antisense RNA.

11. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein at least one toxic agent is adjacent to trans-acting ribozyme and at least one toxic agent is toxic gene product.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the toxic agent is sense RNA.

14. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the sense RNA is targeted to an essential antisense molecule.

15. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial-specific promoter, a viral-specific promoter, a liver-specific promoter, a prostate-specific promoter, an epidermal-cell specific promoter, an ileum-specific promoter, a breast-specific, and a smooth muscle-specific promoter.

16. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the pathogen-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of an anr promoter (SEQ ID NO:3), a ProC promoter (SEQ ID NO:4, a hla promoter, a SrcB promoter and a TSST-1 promoter (SEQ ID NO:6).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously amended) A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

19. (Previously amended) A modified virion comprising a recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

20. (Original) The virion of claim 19 which is a bacteriophage.

21. (Currently amended) The virion of claim 20, wherein said bacteriophage ~~of claim 20 which~~ is a P1 bacteriophage.

22. (Currently amended) The virion of claim 20, wherein said bacteriophage ~~of claim 20 which~~ further comprises a mutated *pac* site (SEQ ID NO:8) or a mutated *pacABC* gene.

23. (Original) The virion of claim 19, wherein the virion has a reduced ability to transfer DNA originating from the virus, and wherein the virion is capable of transferring the recombinant nucleic acid.

24. (Currently amended) The virion of claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a toxic agent selected from the group consisting of *ccdB, kid, ~~perK,~~ parE, doc, higB, chpAK, chpBK, kicB, ~~hoc,~~ srnB', flmA,* pndA, *~~pmdA,~~ relF, gef, kilA, kilB, kilC, kilE, traL, traE, sigB, hok, pemK, lysostaphin, and kikA*.

Claims 25-29 (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the modified virion of claim 19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (Previously added) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ribozyme cassette comprises a 5' autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequence and a 3' autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequence.

32. (Previously added) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozymes has enhanced cleavage activity.

B4

33. (Previously added) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the toxic agent is targeted to an antidote.